

The greater number of butterflies at the Col de Montjardin near Lanuejols in the west of the Park is worthy of special mention; so too was the abundance of *H. virgaurae* Linnaeus at Col de Bes near Mt. Aigoual. In both cases many flowers were present. The year of 1978 will no doubt be remembered in the Cévennes for both the hot and dry summer and the unusually great profusion of butterflies.

Acknowledgements

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References

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PURPLE EMPERORS AT PLAY. — During the afternoon of July 21st I led a party round the Wiltshire Trust for Nature Conservation's reserve at Blackmoor Copse. It was a poor day for butterflies, sunless and with a cold N.W. wind, so few insects showed up as we walked round the rides. As we left the Copse at about 4 o'clock the sun suddenly put in an appearance and transformed what had hitherto been a rather dull afternoon into something quite different. First one then another ♂ Purple Emperor appeared and chased each other round an oak tree by the roadside. Presently two more joined them and all four engaged in a sort of aerial battle the contestants being joined periodically by Purple Hairstreaks which darted into the fray. At lower levels White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries sought refreshment from the bramble blossom in the hedgerow while on the road itself some twenty excited spectators stood glued to the tarmac with their binoculars trained on the battling Emperors. After a few minutes clouds again blotted out the sun and the actors vanished leaving the spectators to make their way back to their cars with the memory of a most unexpected spectacle to take away with them. — MAJOR GENERAL C. G. LIPSCOMB, The Riding, Knook, Near Warminster, Wiltshire, 27.vii.79.

PROLONGED HATCHING OF ENNOMOS ALNIARIA L. — Some long ribbons of eggs of this species were laid on the same night by the same female. Come next year however the eggs started hatching on 14 May and continued right through until 17 June. We are very familiar with pupae lying over for more than one year and of course of varying growth rates of larvae depending on food and location, as well as staggered emergence of moths from the same brood. Variation in date of egg hatching adds a further variable to the device used by insects to spread their survival chances. — G. M. HAGGETT.